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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-eighth session
7-18 March 1994
Items 5 (b) and 6 of the
provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES: DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN IN URBAN AREAS: POPULATION, NUTRITION AND HEALTH FACTORS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MIGRATION, DRUG CONSUMPTION AND ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Statement submitted by the International Council on Social Welfare and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; American Association of Retired Persons, Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'í International Community, Conference of European Churches (CEC), International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Social Workers, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples (UFER), Medical Women's International Association, Socialist International Women (SIW), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW), World Vision International and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International

* E/CN.6/1994/1.

Inner Wheel and Movement against Racism and for Friendship Among Peoples, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Women's future: the girl child is key

The non-governmental organizations listed above, many of whom are members of the Geneva-based Working Group on the Girl Child, express their concern that although there have been improvements for women and the girl child since the 1985 Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies globally, the girl child still has unequal access to education, nutrition and health and suffers discrimination as a result of other emerging issues.

In many countries, the girl child has a lower status and enjoys fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood than the boy child. This inequality becomes increasingly difficult to overcome, and its effects continue into adult life, compounding women's inferior status. With modern technology gender-based discrimination against women begins before birth. This discrimination affects the whole life cycle and is cumulative. A malnourished, uneducated girl child is likely to become a malnourished, uneducated woman, unable to make her needed contribution to sustainable development. Improving the status of the girl child provides a sound investment for the future and is therefore a major factor in the elimination of poverty.

For these reasons it is essential that the status of the girl child together with the root causes of inequality and discrimination are given high priority at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and that the Platform for Action include strategies to ensure the implementation of the pledges and commitments relating to the girl child, made by Member States in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1990 World Summit for Children, and the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

Governments should be urged to take measures and adopt policies:

(a) To eliminate, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other United Nations bodies, all forms of discrimination against girl children and to ensure equal access to nutrition, health and education, thus equipping them for adult life and employment;

(b) To give support to parents and help reduce the economic, social and political pressures which lead to child prostitution and pornography, traffic in organs, and all other forms of economic and sexual exploitation which currently are affecting millions of girl children.

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES: PEACE: MEASURES TO ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Soroptimist International, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), International Abolitionist Federation, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Penal Law, International Commission of Jurists, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Resistance Movements, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples (UFER), Lutheran World Federation, National Council of German Women's Organizations - Federal Union of Women's Organizations and Women's Groups of German Associations E.V., Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Socialist International Women, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW), World Jewish Congress and World Union of Catholic Women's Organization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Inner

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Wheel, International Peace Bureau and Movement against Racism, and for Friendship among Peoples, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Joint statement on measures needed to eliminate violence against women

The non-governmental organizations listed above have read with care the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women. Before underlining certain points, we wish to inform the Commission of some activities which non-governmental organizations undertook in 1993:

(a) A statement signed by 28 non-governmental organizations was made to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session. It asked that rape be explicitly recognized as a crime in international and humanitarian law;

(b) At the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 20 non-governmental organizations joined in urging the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. They urged also that the Commission condemn rape used for strategic purposes;

(c) Non-governmental organizations around the world lobbied with success for the integration of women's human rights in all human rights programmes and activities. In this regard, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (Part III, chapter II.B, particularly paragraph 38) include important steps towards achieving the eradication of violence against women.

The non-governmental organizations listed above urge the Commission to adopt fully the proposals made by the Expert Group on Violence against Women, (E/CN.6/1994/4, annex) especially:

(a) Paragraph 23 (code of universal standards and minimum rules for responses to violence against women);

(b) Paragraphs 25 and 28 (Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and adequate financial and human resources);

(c) Paragraph 29 (regular relationship between the Special Rapporteur and the Commission on the Status of Women and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

(d) Paragraphs 45 and 63 (role of the media);

(e) Paragraphs 70-88 (peace, peace-keeping, emergencies and armed conflicts);

(f) Paragraphs 89-92 (refugees and displaced women).

We underline the need for the Committee to cooperate closely with all the United Nations human rights bodies, especially the treaty bodies (resolution 1993/46 of the Commission on Human Rights). We with to recommend that the Committee follow closely and make an input into the work of United Nations bodies concerned with peace, disarmament and human rights issues, the progress of which will contribute to the eradication of violence against women.

We urge the Commission to ensure that Governments establish a clear policy for the prevention of ill-treatment of women in custody and for their protection from rape and sexual abuse during interrogation.

We reiterate the requests made by non-governmental organizations to the Commission at the thirty-seventh session to (a) recommend the establishment of a permanent international penal court to judge war crimes and crimes against humanity and (b) call for the proclamation of an international year on violence against women.

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES: DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN IN URBAN AREAS: POPULATION, NUTRITION AND HEALTH FACTORS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MIGRATION, DRUG CONSUMPTION AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Statement submitted by the International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; American Association of Retired Persons, Associated Country Women of the World, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), International Abolitionist Federation, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), International Federation of University Women, International Federation Terre des Hommes, Lutheran World Federation, Medical Women's International Association, National Council of German Women's Organizations - Federal Union of Women's Organizations and Women's Groups of German Associations, E.V., Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Socialist International Women (SIW), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW), World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in

* E/CN.6/1994/1.

consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Council of Nurses, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

The non-governmental organizations listed above, concerned about the nutritional status of all women, and men, but particularly those in urban areas, welcome the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Development: women in urban areas: population, nutrition and health factors for women in development, including migration, drug consumption and acquired immune deficiency syndrome" (E/CN.6/1994/3).

1. Urbanization is a major socio-economic trend. By the year 2000 half of all women will be living in urban areas, mostly in developing regions. Urbanization results in physical, social and economic change that can lead to poverty thereby exposing urban women to higher health risks and malnutrition than women in rural areas.

2. A disproportionate number of the world's poor are women and due to gender discrimination poor women are more likely to suffer hunger and malnutrition than men. Globally, and in spite of many efforts, the nutritional status of women and girls, especially the urban poor, is deteriorating. The time has come to reverse this trend.

3. While poverty is the major cause of poor nutritional status, there are other contributing factors: lack of education and health care, discriminating agricultural and economic policies, as well as political instability. We therefore underline the importance of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition which emphasized the need to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

4. Globally, one third of all households are headed by single women, but the percentage is even higher in urban areas. Working women are often the key to family survival. Reduction of their income automatically has a negative effect on the quality of food and medical care they can give their families, increasing the risk of malnutrition and infection.

5. The enormous contribution by women in rural areas should be recognized and their resources strengthened and improved. Urban planners need to improve the status of rural women, giving them greater control over resources, to avoid or slow down the trend in urban migration.

6. Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, highlights women's critical role in sustainable development. As the prime users of domestic energy and water, they can contribute significantly to safer management of environmentally sound

technologies in urban areas. Replacing polluting fuels and providing easier access to water can reduce deprivation in urban areas.

7. Municipal governments frequently find it difficult to deliver essential urban services. The role of non-governmental organizations, communities, support groups and women in particular in obtaining and delivering these urban services should be recognized and supported. Women's commitment to urban improvement should be matched by official support.

8. The United Nations agencies should do everything possible to allocate staff and resources for a women-in-development component in all programmes, and ensure coordination with other agencies to avoid duplication and increase efficiency.

9. We therefore call on all Member States in their search for solutions to the situation of women living in poor urban areas:

(a) To support a holistic and integrated approach to urban development, involving both women and men in the total process;

(b) To make the elimination of poverty, and hence malnutrition, a national priority;

(c) To adopt policies:

(i) Which reverse or slow down rural urban migration;

(ii) Which ensure women's rights to land tenure, property and access to credit for rural women;

(d) To reallocate resources to draw up and implement, with the collaboration of local non-governmental organizations and women, the International Conference of Nutrition National Plans of Action, the goals of the World Summit for Children, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

(e) To provide during the entire life cycle of women, accessible health care and nutrition as a fundamental human right;

(f) To support gender-specific nutritional research, in particular concerning adolescents and the ageing, and to document the effects of nutritional taboos and gender discrimination;

(g) To ensure that home economics and nutrition become part of all urban and rural school curricula, education, vocational training programmes, health-care centres and community projects;

(h) To strengthen existing national machinery for the advancement of women and to help in the development of such focal points in countries where they are not currently in place.

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Thirty-eighth session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; Associated Country Women of the World, Commonwealth Medical Association, International Federation of University Women, Medical Women's International Association, World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and Centre for Development and Population Activities, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, International Confederation of Midwives, International Council of Nurses and International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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* E/CN.6/1994/1.

A comprehensive human rights approach to women's health

It is widely recognized and accepted by competent medical authority that factors influencing the development of good health or the onset of bad health must be considered comprehensively, and that this requires an overview of their effects over the whole of the life-span, if they are to be properly understood and appreciated. Accordingly, the importance of considering health from a comprehensive and holistic perspective was fully recognized during the technical discussions on women, health and development at the World Health Assembly in 1992.

The need for such an approach is nowhere more obvious than in societies where discrimination is practised against women. Although born with a stronger resistance to adverse health factors than her male siblings, a woman's health in such societies begins to suffer almost immediately after birth as a result of her receiving far less than her fair share of food. Later she may be subject to harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, the adverse consequences of which, if not immediate, certainly increase the risk of damage to her health during her child-bearing years.

Often forced to carry out a far larger share of heavy physical work than her brothers, she will be less likely than they to receive education. She will be unlikely to receive any sex education and may have little access to family planning education and services. She may be forced into early marriage and/or early child-bearing. The result can be death or complications which affect her health and reproduction throughout her life. Women have little decision-making ability about sexual encounters and virtually no control over the sexual behaviour of men. Therefore they are at greater risk of unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and, tragically, HIV/AIDS.

All these factors contribute to the ill health which women in such societies suffer throughout the whole of their life-span, as a result of which it has been widely recognized and accepted that a fragmentary or segmental approach to women's health is wholly inappropriate. So damaging to a woman's health are these adverse factors that the elimination of discrimination against women must be accepted as the most important single means of improving their health status. This can be achieved only by enforcing their human rights.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)) adopted in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights affirms "the importance of the enjoyment by women of the highest standard of physical and mental health throughout their life-span". It also reaffirms, "on the basis of equality between women and men, a woman's right to accessible and adequate health care and the widest range of family planning services, as well as equal access to education at all levels".

The non-governmental organizations listed above, as members of Advocacy for Women's Health urge the Commission on the Status of Women, in developing the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to take a comprehensive view of women's health throughout the life-span and to give priority to the enforcement of women's human rights as the most important means of improving their health status.

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PRIORITY THEMES: DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN IN URBAN AREAS: POPULATION, NUTRITION AND HEALTH FACTORS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING MIGRATION, DRUG CONSUMPTION AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Statement submitted by Associated Country Women of the World, Commonwealth Medical Association and World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, International Council of Nurses and International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

The non-governmental organizations listed above, as members of Advocacy for Women's Health, urge the Commission on the Status of Women to take the following impacts on women's health into account in considering the situation of women in urban areas:

* E/CN.6/1994/1.

Introduction

The number of women living in urban areas, already high, is expected to increase to nearly half of all the women in the world by the year 2000. Millions of women in urban areas live in poverty and millions more have insufficient incomes to meet more than their most basic needs. Frequently they are the sole supporters of their families. They are likely to be illiterate and probably work more hours each week than do men, if their work in the home looking after their families is taken into account. All this has an adverse effect on their health.

Poverty and housing

Poor quality, over-crowded housing, which characterizes the conditions under which many of these women live, has a negative impact on their health. It can result in stress and can cause marked depressive symptoms. It creates a setting which increases the risk of domestic violence. Women living in such conditions will often resort to substance abuse such as alcohol, tobacco and drugs in order to relieve their misery. This will have a direct impact on their health; on the unborn child if they are pregnant; on their ability to care for their children; and on their sexual activity. Their resistance to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and to HIV/AIDS is reduced as a consequence.

Lack of clean water and poor, or non-existent, sanitation can also place an undue burden on women, who are responsible for caring for their family members who fall sick from water-borne diseases and bad sanitation. The lack of latrines may also be a factor in decisions to keep girls out of school, which decreases their opportunities to acquire the literacy skills which will enable them to escape from poverty. Poorly ventilated kerosene cooking stoves cause respiratory infections, in addition to being a fire hazard which can cause severe burns.

Anaemia and malnutrition

The poverty which pervades the lives of these women can lead to malnutrition, causing conditions such as blindness from vitamin A deficiency and mental retardation from iodine deficiency. Malnutrition also increases morbidity and death from a variety of infectious and chronic diseases. Millions of women suffer from chronic anaemia, which is particularly dangerous for women during pregnancy and lactation.

Encouraging women to breast-feed their babies for the optimal period, i.e., four to six months on breast milk alone, is not feasible unless women are able to breast-feed close to their place of work. Through childhood, in comparison with their male siblings, girl children are undernourished, while being forced to carry out a greater share of household tasks. Emphasis should be placed on ensuring adequate supplies of nutritious food, including food supplements, specifically targeted at girl children (who may not be attending school) and at pregnant and lactating women.

Reproductive health issues

The provision of reproductive health services for women in urban areas is just as important as it is for women in rural areas. Such services should be available, acceptable, accessible and affordable and should include family planning and other reproductive health services, such as the detection and treatment of STDs and infertility. Millions of women suffer from reproductive tract infections (RTIs), which are frequently asymptomatic, unrecognized and potentially fatal. RTIs are associated with foetal wastage, low birth weight, congenital infection, infertility and cervical cancer.

Migrant women in urban areas

It is estimated that half the world's migrants are women and many of them migrate from rural to urban areas in order to seek a living. They will frequently find only low-paid, low-skilled work as maids or sex-workers. They may also find themselves trapped in a violent marriage, if their entry to the country is conditional upon their being accompanied by their husbands. While the conditions in which they live will frequently be injurious to their health, particularly to their reproductive health, they will have no access to health or other social services.

HIV/AIDS

The low-income status of women in urban areas and the need to find additional resources to support their families often leads to their undertaking activities which are injurious to their health, such as commercial sex and drug peddling. In particular it increases their susceptibility to HIV infection. This risk is greatly increased in women suffering from RTIs. In addition young girls are increasingly susceptible to HIV infection either because they have to resort to prostitution to raise money to support themselves and their siblings - for example, if they lose their parents through AIDS - or because of the "sugar daddy" syndrome, whereby men look for younger girls as partners whom they believe to be "clean" and "HIV free".

Education, information and awareness programmes should be developed and implemented which target women and girls in urban areas, and specific activities should be promoted which provide alternative possibilities for income-generation.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Statement submitted by International Women's Anthropology Conference, Inc., (IWAC) a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The International Women's Anthropology Conference (IWAC) is an international network of women in anthropology and related fields whose research and activities centre on issues of concern to women. As social scientists we seek to understand gender and the diverse forms gender relations take across society and culture. By looking at gender from a comparative and historical perspective, we can begin to explain and appreciate the diversity of gender relations and structure and, in turn, affect the role and status of women. Our perspective is rooted in respect for the basic humanity of all peoples and a search for understanding through systematic and contextual inquiry of the reality of peoples' lives as experienced by them. The goals of IWAC are to exchange information on current research, projects, sources of funding and publications of interest, to promote activities directed towards developing a cross-cultural, comparative framework for work being done on and with women; and to bring anthropological perspectives to bear on national and international policies concerning women.

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* E/CN.6/1994/1.

As the Commission on the Status of Women prepares for the Fourth World Conference on Women and develops a draft Platform for Action, IWAC would draw the Commission's attention to the following critical areas of concern and strategic objectives and actions to be taken.

All policies and programmes of action should take into account the ways in which particular structures of inequality such as race, caste, and ethnicity differentially have an impact on women. They should be equity-driven to ensure that all women have equal access to resources and opportunities in their particular localities and that compensatory measures are initiated to make up for historical or traditional discrimination.

1. Strategic objectives related to economic structures

In the context of the world-wide changes that have occurred during the past few years, including the new trends in development, the increases in mechanization as a result of technological advances and the focus of the global capitalist system on privatization, it is clear that the vast majority of women living in the countries of the South and the poor in those of the North have become more vulnerable. Many have lost their jobs, have only part-time work or are forced to work for substandard wages and/or to emigrate.

Under these circumstances, it is extremely important that the following be taken into account in a culturally sensitive manner:

International labour laws should be revised to take into account a gender perspective in the context of the globalization of economies. With the many free trade negotiations under way, it is imperative that minimum international labour standards be developed to protect workers in both developed and developing countries.

Regulations as well as laws and monitoring instruments should be developed at the local, national and international levels to eliminate income inequalities between women and men in the workplace. Care should be exercised to see to it that this is not used as an excuse to eliminate female employment. Equal rights commissions at the level of workplaces should be encouraged.

Studies on the ramifications of new techniques of labour-organizing, such as flexible work hours, should be encouraged by international and national agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations and unions.

A gender perspective should be taken into account in government regulation and monitoring of health and safety in the workplace. Care should be taken that this is not used as an excuse for not hiring women, since it is clear that male workers should also not be exposed to such hazards as poisonous chemicals and radioactivity.

Governments, non-governmental organizations and local groups should be encouraged, in a culturally sensitive manner, to address issues of equality for women within the home. Campaigns encouraging men and the State to share in domestic responsibilities should respect cultural values.

Cultural values should not, however, be used as an excuse to justify a double or triple burden on working women.

Recognizing that there is a need for more knowledge and technology transfer to rural women, culturally sensitive dialogue should be promoted between women at the grass-roots level and development researchers, trainers and policy makers. This technical training should be given according to the ecological needs of the region.

International agencies should help to build up effective information networks among women engaged in similar activities, such as wasteland development, rice cultivation and horticulture, in different parts of the same country and between countries.

International agencies, national and local governments and organizations should be encouraged to help rural women with the marketing of cash crops, crafts and forest, horticultural and processed products.

At least a small piece of family land should be either put in the name of the wife or jointly in the name of the husband and wife. Discriminatory legal clauses and customary laws and traditions that affect women's equal rights to land and other natural resources in rural areas need to be removed. As a start, by the year 2000, it is suggested that at least 25 per cent of rural women have at least a small parcel of land in their own name.

2. Strategic objectives related to migrant women

The increasing number of international migrants has become a major feature of the world today. Today's migration results from the failure of most development models and economic structures to provide basic employment and subsistence. A striking feature of this migration is the growth in female migrant workers. Rising xenophobia and racism, exacerbated by the traumas of recession and unemployment, mark migrants and other foreigners as targets of hostilities. Moreover, the migrant woman is most susceptible to abuse and the denial of basic human rights as she is relatively isolated from the benefits of rights acquired through collective bargaining and is unprotected from violations of her person.

In response to these conditions, measures leading to the empowerment of migrant women must include:

De-emphasis of export-oriented development policies which accelerate migration and neglect internal needs of developing countries.

Access of women to such resources as land, credit and training programmes.

Encouragement of Governments to examine implicit and explicit migration policies which may violate human rights and view migrant women and men as a source of foreign exchange.

Examination of the role of imported mass media and cultural models in accelerating migration, and the support of policies favouring a new information order.

Adoption and ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which covers, inter alia, documented and undocumented workers, women and men as migrant workers, and many important social, economic, human rights and cultural questions concerning migrants and their families. In addition:

The United Nations system should provide all facilities and assistance necessary to promote the Convention, including a briefing paper on it.

Non-governmental organizations should publicize and promote the Convention, organize public forums to discuss its importance, advocate for its signature ratification and application.

General Assembly resolution 48/110 on violence against women migrant workers should be implemented.

The only effective means of reducing migratory pressures is economic development that creates full and productive employment in a politically stable environment. Job creation, using local labour, local resources, and local capacities in areas of extreme migratory pressure, should be promoted.

3. Strategic objectives related to militarism

Paradoxically, as the cold war comes to an end, the increasing militarization which has characterized the world since the Second World War continues to severely jeopardize the situation of women. Today military values, ideology and patterns of behaviour dominate the political, social and economic affairs of States, as well as their external relations.

This world view, which puts a low price on human life, has had a particularly deleterious impact on women. Violence, in the name of "national security", has become the daily reality for many women, keeping them hungry, impoverished and in constant fear of organized rape; they fear for their own survival and that of their families. This emphasis on violence as a solution to the world's problems penetrates the day-to-day experience of women. No longer are just the military armed but civilians as well. Many women are forced to migrate, while those who are left behind are the sole caretakers of large numbers of dependents. Militarism has also made women the objects of sexual abuse on military bases and in the sex tourism industry. Under these conditions women are unable to organize; they are kept in a perpetual state of poverty. These conditions are immoral and counter to the basic human and societal interests of all women, men and children.

Measures leading towards demilitarization should include:

The creation of gender-balanced civilian commissions that would open to public scrutiny all military activities, expenditures and research and development.

The immediate restructuring of government budgets to include a reduction in military spending. Monies saved should be allocated to education and social services.

4. Strategic objectives related to linking research and action

Research should challenge paradigms and theoretical frameworks which:

Ignore structural racism and how it is produced and reproduced within the economic, political and cultural structures of societies, as well as policies and practices which perpetuate racism.

"Blame the victim" instead of challenging and transforming processes in society which underpin the subordination of women.

Do not speak to and give voice to the experiences of the researched.

Research should analyse and document the conditions and life experiences of women, utilizing a feminist political economy approach.

Research should be for political and social change and directed towards women's self-determination.